

## Peak Visitation Guidelines 2006

Welcome to Ford's Theatre National Historic Site. The site is open daily (except Christmas Day) between the hours of 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. The Lincoln Museum is in the lower level of the theatre. The House Where Lincoln Died is across the street from the theatre at 516 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Peak visitation to this site takes place during the springtime. It is not uncommon to find very long lines in front of the theatre and The House Where Lincoln Died. When arriving at the site ask Park Rangers for the most up-to-date information about your group's movement and the wait in line. Public access to the site often varies from day-to-day as the site also operates as a working theatre. Production work, rehearsals, and matinees often require closure of the theatre to the visiting public. However when the theatre is closed, The Lincoln Museum, in the lower level of the theatre, and The House Where Lincoln Died usually remain open.

We hope you find the following guidelines useful as you prepare for your visit:

- For latest information on visiting the theatre, call 202-426-6924 and press 1 for current updates.
- No reservations or tickets are required at this time. Entrance is based on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please join the public line.
- While in the public line, please stand in pairs on the public sidewalk as close to the curb as possible. Please keep the sidewalk clear for pedestrian traffic. Once in line, please avoid leaving the line in small groups to shop.
- It is not possible to reserve a space in the public line. Please put your group in the public line all at one time. Direct any questions regarding wait times or other concerns to Park Rangers.
- The public line moves regularly to permit visitors interested in listening to interpretive programs on the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln into the theatre.
- Interpretive programs take place once each hour, at fifteen minutes after the hour. Visitors who prefer to walk through the theatre for a photo opportunity may do so daily between the hours of 12-2 pm. However, on days when matinees are scheduled or the theatre is closed for production or rehearsal work, this may not be possible.
- The Presidential Box inside the theatre is closed during the peak visitation period due to the high volume of visitors. Seating in the balcony area of the theatre will be at the direction of Park Rangers. Once the orchestra level is filled with visitors, the balcony is used only for overflow seating of those persons who listen to interpretive programs.
- Visitors are invited to The Lincoln Museum in the lower level of the theatre and The House Where Lincoln Died, across the street from the theatre. To visit The House Where Lincoln Died, please join the public line in front of 516 10<sup>th</sup> St. To preserve the House and protect this treasured resource while enhancing visitor appreciation of this location, only small chaperoned groups are permitted inside the historic structure at one time.
- Please prepare to enter Ford's Theatre, The Lincoln Museum, and The House Where Lincoln Died without food, drink, or gum. Water bottles are permitted as long as they are capped.
- Group leaders are encouraged to give historical background before entering or after exiting the theatre and The House Where Lincoln Died. Once inside either structure, Park Rangers and Volunteers will interpret the historical events/artifacts for the visiting public.
- Please be aware that vendors without appropriate licenses frequently appear near the public line. They often sell counterfeit goods. Please help us keep the area safe by not purchasing items from illegal vendors.